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Editorial

by H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

An ancient greek philosopher once said "Truth lies at the bottom of a deep well." What this means is that the answer to any question does not come easily - it is not handed to us by our fairy godmother with all the details underlined and double-checked.

In the UFO field, this is especially true, as we don't seem to be only seeking truth in a deep well; we sometimes seem to be drowning in it! How simple it would be if whatever or whoever is behind the phenomenon would show up at Bill Chalker's or Lad Godic's door one night and give over with the whole story!!! The will to believe this is so strong in some people that they would rather think that it has already happened.

We can assure those people (if any be reading this) that it has not! So back to the deep well. In our field, the deep well of documentation, documentation and more documentation. Sounds pretty dull doesn't it! Dull, but necessary.

We must remember that if a case is well documented, it does not end with us (as it otherwise might) but is written up in a manner which can be preserved for all time and which may, someday, be part of the evidence presented to the world in support of the reality of the UFO phenomenon. Clear, concise, documentation leaving no stone unturned but avoiding the temptation to pad, is what will impress scientists and other professional people. Lack of well-documented reports is taken to mean lack of anything worth documenting - its as simple as that. So, it's up to us folks. Us and no-one else!

Mr. G. W. Russell ("A.E." as he is always known) was an Irish artist, poet, journalist and political activist on behalf of the farming community of Ireland. A contemporary of the famous W.B. Yeats (with whom he shared friendship and much common interest), A.E. has been largely overshadowed by his lofty compatriot, despite the acknowledged beauty of his poems.

But A.E. is famous on other grounds as well. Like Blake before him, and Roc Crombie in our own time, A.E. was a "seer" - a visionar - and he has left us a valuable legacy in the form of the most interesting book entitled "The Candle of Vision". Published in 1918, this book contains records of his visions and dreams, as well as some remarkable speculations concerning the nature of the visionary "world" he visited during meditation and states of reverie. (Interestingly, he even speculates on the existence of parallel universes to explain some of his more remarkable visions).

Some of these visions lasted for several hours, and took the form of luminous landscapes populated with strange beings of non-human form, but the one which is of most interest to us occured some 25 years before the writing of "Candle". If the date of the latter was 1918, this would make the date of the vision about 1893. Remember this date, it is just prior to the great airship flap - a connection which will soon be obvious. A.E. was sitting on a hillside when he "seemed to slip from to-day into some remote yesterday of earth". Below him he saw the same valley, but now it seemed populated with men in battle. "But this I soon forgot for I was impelled to look upwards, and there above me was an airship glittering with light. It halted above the valley while a man, grey-bearded, very majestic, his robes all starred and jewelled, bent over and looked down upon the battle. The pause was but for an instant, and then the lights flashed more brilliantly, some luminous mist was jetted upon the air from many tubes below the boat, and it soared and passed beyond the mountain, and it was followed by another and yet others, all glittering with lights, and they climbed the air over the hill and were soon lost amid the other lights of heaven." About six years after this vision, A.E. espied another airship "in the mystical air", so close this time that he felt he could have reached out and touched it. This time the ship was steered by "a young man ... his black hair blown back from his brow, his face pale and resolute, his head bent, his eyes intent on his wheel: and beside him sat a woman, a rose-coloured shawl speckled with golden threads drawn over her head around her shoulders, across her bosom and folded arms. Her face was as proud as a queen's, and I lung remembered that face for its pride, stillness and beauty".

Afterwards, A.E. had other visions of such "aerial wanderers" and he remarks that none appeared to be "mixed up with modernity" and seemed to possess features of a distinct civilization.

There is no question about these being external objects. Clearly they were subjective - "visionary" - private to A.E. alone. He recognized this, even though he considered such visions to exist in a "world mind" into whose secret recesses Man was sometimes permitted to pry.

There is little question also that many features of the airship and later UFOs were apparent in these visions (note, for instance, the greater illumination of the ship as it began to move, the exhausts and even the long black hair and pale face of the pilot). Could many UFO reports actually be unrecognized visions?

Clearly some of the early "UFOs" were visionary. The wheels of Ezekiel for example have all the hallmarks of the visions of religious mysticism.

A.E. even had a somewhat similar vision once, in which "there was an intensity of light before my eyes like the flashing of sunlight through a crystal. It widened like the opening of a gate and I saw the light streaming from the heart of a glowing figure. Its body was pervaded with light as if sunfire rather than blood ran through its limbs. Light streams flowed from it.

It moved over me along the winds, carrying a harp, and there was a circling of golden hair that swept across the strings. Birds flew about it, and over the brows was a fiery plumage as of wings of outspread flame. On the face was an ecstacy of beauty and immortal youth. There were others, lordly folk, and they passed by on the wind as if they knew me not or the earth I lived on".

Such visions as these are the stuff of myth and ancient accounts of gods and heroes. Our materialistic age with its obsession with technology has seen accounts of space-ships in these because we have lost the poetry of earlier times and can think no further than the nuts and bolts of some super-technology. In doing so, with our "head full of space", we find that we have lost our soul.

The Royal Australian Air Force Investigations of UFOs.

by Bill Chalker.

(N.B. The author of the following article wishes anyone with information on this matter to contact him c/o P.O. Box 6 Lane Cove N.S.W. 2066 Australia)

An Australian Department of Defence (Air Office) document entitled "Text for Lectures on the Investigation of Unusual Aerial Sightings in Australia" indicates:

"In Australia, the RAAF is responsible for the investigation of unusual aerial sighting reports. This responsibility was vested in the air force in the early 1950s, when the Australian government, in common with the United Kingdom and the United States governments were concerned that UFOs might have posed a threat to national security following several years investigation of sighting reports in Australia" (1).

RAAF policy on the UFO subject finds some close parallels with those of the USAF, particularly when both lean heavily on the findings of the "Condon Report". They refer to the main conclusions of the report, which on the basis of about two years investigations, indicated that "nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge" and that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby." (2)

To quote again from the above Defence Department document: "While these general conclusions still hold true today, the RAAF continues to investigate reports of unusual aerial sightings as a service to the public. In almost all reported cases, people have seen something and are concerned as to the cause. In some cases, people are genuinly alarmed at the possibility that their experience may be extra-terrestrial in origin. We hope that through our investigations cry fears that people may have about UFOs can be allayed. Although the majority of reports can be resulved satisfactorily, we do believe that there will always be a small percentage that will remain unresolved probably because of insufficient information being supplied, late receipt of the report or current scientific knowledge being insufficient to provide a definite explanation." (3) "Reports are made initially to the nearest Air Force Base. At the Base, the intelligence officer or other suitably qualified officer conducts the preliminary investigation. He contacts the observer personally or in writing to obtain a completed 'Report of Unusual Aerial Sighting' Pro-Forma. This Pro-Forma is designed to extract all the information relevant to the sighting and the preliminary investigation is conducted based on this information. The investigation officer's report, which contains details of civil and military aircraft movements, star and planet positions, known satellite passes, meteorological balloon releases and prevailing weather conditions, and his assessment of the probable cause is then forwarded to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence at the Department of Defence (Air Office) in Canberra where the investigation is completed and a reply sent to the observer. Where necessary, advice and information is sought from specialists agencies such as Weapons Research Establishment, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Defence Standards Laboratories, observatories and universities." (4)

During the period 1960 to 1976, the RAAF examined some 1023 reports and the following table reveals the yearly breakdown: (5)

YEAR	TOTAL No.	OF REPORTS	No. UNIDENTIFIED	% UNIDENTIFIED
1960	20		o one are o to the a	0.0
1961	14		0	0,0
1962	25		0	0.0
1963	17		0	0.0
1964	17		1	5.9
1965	52		2	3,9
1966	74		1	1.4
1967	95		0	0.0
1968	101		0	0.0
1969	94		2	2.1
1970	37		4	10.8
1971	52		6	11.5
1972	87		11	12.6
1973	193		4	2.1
1974	67		2	3.0
1975	39		4	10.2
1976	39		4	10.2

While these percentage unidentified figures are a reasonable reflection of the quality of accounts received by the RAAF, they are in fact quite deceptive. If one undertakes an in depth study of the military data, as I have done, it quickly becomes apparent, that many of the "possibly causes" suggested as the stimuli for various observations of "Unusual Aerial Sightings" are an effrontery to scientific method. By that I mean that many sightings are given unsatisfactory explanations. I have included here, details of three such sightings and the "possible causes" that have been ascribed to them by the Department of Defence

At 6.10 p.m. on October 10th, 1960, the Reverend Lionel Browning and his wife observed a strange spectacle from the window of their rectory, at Cressy. From a curtain of rain over Ben Lomond mountain in the east, "a grey, cigar-shaped object" emerged. It was described as having "about four vertical bands along the side of the object. At the bow end of the ship was a rod jutting out with what seemed like a small propeller or some other radar device on the end.". After about a minute the object stopped its steady movement and hovered, apparently between 400-500 feet above the Panshanger Estate. Rev Browning indicates, that then "out of the clouds above and behind the ship, five or six small discs came shooting at terrific speed. They came towards the ship like flat stones skipping along the water. The smaller objects stationed themselves beside their mothership within a half mile radius." These smaller objects were described as "flying saucers about 30 feet in diameter with a flat underside and a rounded dome on top After several secunds the ship, accompanied by the saucers, reversed the way it came. The ship did not manoeuvre to return because the rod end was the last section of the ship to be covered in the rain clouds." Another person, Mrs. D. Bransden also saw the spectacle, describing it as like "a lot of little ships flocking around a bigger one." The total duration of the incident was about two minutes. (6)

Wing commander G. L. Waller of the RAAF, interviewed the Brownings, and in a letter to the late Dr. James McDonald, indicated that the couple "impressed me as being mature, stable, and mentally alert individuals who had no cause or desire to see objects in the sky other than objects of definite form and substance." (7) These comments by the investigating officer are all the more astonishing when compared to the Air Force Intelligence statement on the sighting released a few days later. It dismissed the observation as "a phenomena (caused by) a moon rise associated with meteorological conditions at the time."

In fact the intelligence report stated, "The presence of 'scud' type clouds,

moving in varying directions due to turbulence in and around a rain squall near which the objects were sighted, and the position of the moon or its reflections, produced the impression of flying objects." (8)

Rev. Browning and the late Dr. McDonald place the sighting into a more correct perspective. The former indicated, at no time during the 90 minute Air Force Intelligence interview, was he asked about clouds. Rev. Browning added: "At no time was there cloud or scud when I saw the objects. The mountain was not the backdrop to what I saw. The rain cleared in front of us although it was still raining near the mountains. I saw the objects in the sky where there was no rain and the rain near the mountains provided the backdrop..." (9)

Dr. McDonald was a senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and a professor in the Department of Meteorology, University of Arizona and during a 1967 visit to Australia he conducted a detailed retrospective investigation of the Cressy sighting. He made the following succint comments:

"Such an 'explanation' has a curiously familiar ring to anyone who has studied large numbers of USAF 'explanations' of UFO sightings. One can quickly establish that the moon was full on the date of the Cressy sighting.... (that it would have been obscured not only by rain clouds and Ben Lomond but would also have been in a different direction - a few degrees north of east, rather than ESE, the direction in question - W.C.C.) From my own viewpoint, as one interested in atmospheric optics and in unusual refractive and reflective anomalies, the official suggestion that "scud" subject to turbulent motions could (had the moon not been wholly obscured by rain and mountain) be optically distorted into anything remotely resembling the phenomena reported by the Brownings seems entirely out of the question. In asserting such a meteorological explanation as was issued by the RAAF intelligence office, little evidence of scientific knowledge was exhibited, unless that office felt that the essential features of the Browning's account had to be simply disregarded as unreliable. Yet the interrogating RAAF officer, Wg. Cdr. Waller, evidently had no such inclination to disregard these witnesses' description of their observations, nor do I." (10)

A further lack of scientific methodology is evidenced in suggesting that the possible cause in both of the following incidences, is ascibable to a "tornado-like meteorological manifestation". (11) On February 15th, 1963, at 7.00 a.m., near Moe, in Victoria, a curious manifestation came down out of the eastern sky and hovered at a height between 75 and 100 feet over a tree for a few seconds. This "tornado" was described by the witness, Charles Brew, in the following manner. It was about 25 feet in diameter and 9 or 10 feet high. The top section appeared to be a transparent dome of glass-like material from which protruded a 5 or 6 foot high mast or aerial. This "aerial" appeared to be as thick as a broom-handle and resembled bright chrome. The top portion of the disc itself was a battle-ship grey and appeared to be of a metallic lustre. The base or underside section glowed with a pale blue colour, and had "scoop-like protruberances about 12 to 18 inches apart around the outside edge." This section rotated slowly at about one revolution per second. This spinning motion apparently caused the protuberances to generate a swishing noise, somewhat like a turbine noise, that was clearly audible not only to Brew, but also to his son, Trevor, who was located inside the shed nearby the diesel power milking machine units. After hovering for a few seconds, the object began to climb at roughly a 45 degree angle, continuing on its westward course. During the sighting, cattle and a pony in the farmers immediate vicinity reacted violently. The twofarm dogs fled. Mr. Brew himself experienced a peculiar headache, which came on with the initial approach of the object. It became very severe and lasted for the rest of the day. The use of tablets did not subdue the headache. Officials from Air Forcé Intelligence and a scientist from the meteorological division of the Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) interviewed Mr. Brew and his son. (11A)

The other "tornado" sighting occured at about 5.30 p.m., on July 19th, 1965. Vaucluse resident , Dennis Crowe came upon an "unknown" resting on the sand of a nearby small north shore Sydney beach. Mr. Crowe became aware of a glow coming from the beach. Upon investigating, he saw that the glow emanated from a huge disc-shaped object resting on the beach. He described the object in the following manner. "Its diameter appeared to be about 20 feet. I estimate its height at 9 feet, including what appeared to be legs protruding from the bottom. Its rim was glowing a greenish-blue, while the top and bottom halves were dullish silver-grey. A hollow in the top could have been a glass dome." He could not make out any sign of movement within the object, nor any evidence of portholes or doors. When Mr. Crowe approached the object, to within 50 to 60 feet. it suddenly lifted off the ground. A yellow or orange glow appeared beneath the disc and a "noise like air forcibly released from a balloon" was noticed. After a "take-off run" of only 50 or 60 feet, the UFO climbed rapidly in the direction of Manly. Mr. Crowe watched the object in flight for 10 seconds, before it disappeared in cloud over Manly. He said: "I looked around hoping to see someone else who saw it, but my only company was about a dozen or so dogs. while the object was stationary, they were all barking loudly at it. After it took off they were all strangely silent." (12) A local geologist studied the site and indicated that vegetation there was dying. In the case of the Moe incident, the ground around the tree, over which the UFO hovered, was apparently similarly affected. Mr. Brew's cows refused to walk over the spot on the way to the milking bails. (13) If the RAAF would have us believe rthat what M. Brew and Mr. Crowe saw were only "tornadoes" (and I am suggesting they were not) then these Australian variations of this meteorological manifestation deserve world attention of their uniquess.

If it was the case that examples of unsatisfactory "possible causes" for cases that appear to be definite "unknowns", were isolated occurrences, then the situation would perhaps be excusable. It is unfortunate that this is not the case. Although the total figures for the Department of Defence (Air Office) study from 1960 to 1976, suggest that the "unknown" percentage is about 4%, independent study indicates it to be higher. In a number of cases that appear in the Defence Department Unusual Aerial Sightings Summaries, civilian organisations have also conducted investigations, and often the conclusions drawn are significantly different. Cressy (1960), Mce (1963) and Vaucluse (1965) are but a few examples of this problem. There are many more cases that we are aware of, but space precludes their mention here. Other studies should be consulted for more details. (14) The problem is compounded by the stated policy of the RAAF - Department of Defence (Air Office), that it will not enter into any discussion of any of its suggested causes for particular "Unusual Aerial Sightings". An inspection of any of the Departments' "Unusual Aerial Sightings Summaries" emphasises the paucity of information supplied with each account. (15) Therefore, unless one is privy to Department files or there has been civilian involvement, the listed data defies critical inspection.

while the above situation is a problem in itself, civilian investigation groups and individuals have also found that there are a number of quite impressive RAAF "UFO investigations" that are never included in the summaries made available to the general public. The Department of Defence has not volunteered why this should be the case, but consider the following 2 cases. Both were not included in the appropriate summaries and both on the basis of the information we have at our disposal would be classed as "unknown".

The first report involved two witnesses observing a UFO near the restricted United States Naval Communications Station at North West Cape in Western Australia. At about 1915 hours, on Thursday October 25th, 1973, Lt. Commander M_____ (USN) observed "a large black, airborne object" at a distance of approximately 5 miles to the west at an altitude estimated at 2000 feet. Lt. Cmdr. M____ was driving south from US. Navcomsta (sic?) towards

the support township of Exmouth, along Murat Road. The officer indicated in a written statement that, "After about 20-25 seconds the craft accelerated at unbelievable speed & disappeared to the north." The following details were taken from a completed RAAF Sighting report form:

- 3. Object first observed directly to right (west), approx. 20 deg. elvn, approx. 90 deg. relative bearing, with 5 deg. accuracy.
- 4. Apparent size approx. same as muon when very high. 1 2 " at ca, 20"
- 5. nearest approach 20 deg. & 090 deg.
- 6. est. 2000' elvn.
- 7. "Hovering at first, then accelerating beyond belief."
- 8. disappeared to the north, 45-50 deg. elvn., approx. 165-170 deg.
- 9. no noise or exhaust.
- 10. Special training assoc. with naval aviation for 11 years as aerial gunner & radar operator.
- 11. "have never experienced anything like it."
- 12. "Details, if any were blurred as I did not have my glasses on, (vision 20/40-20/100) but I saw something beyond all doubt in my mind."

The other witness, Fire Captain (USN) Bill L___, provided the following details:

"At 1920 hours, I was called by the P.O.W. to close the Officers club. I proceded towards the club in the Fire Dept. pick-up 488, when my attention was drawn to a large black object, which at first I took to be a small cloud formation, due west of Area "B" (Area "B" is the location of the High Frequency Transmitter and between 2 to 3 miles due west of this point is located Mount Athol.-W.C.C.) Whilst travelling towards the Officers club I couldn't help but be attracted by this object's appearance. On alighting from pick-up 488, I stood for several minutes & watched this black sphere hovering. The sky was clear & pale greeh-blue. No clouds were about whatsoever. The object was completely stationary except for a halo around the centre, which appeared to be either revolving or pulsating. After watching it for approx. 4 minutes, it suddenly tock off at tremendous speed & disappeared in a northerly direction, in a few seconds. I consider this object to have been approx. 30 feet in diameter, hovering at 1000 feet over the hills due west of the base. It was black, maybe due to looking in the direction of the setting sun. No lights appeared on it at any time." (16)

The second report occured at about 10.30, on March 22nd 1975. Two men and 3 girls, travelling in a car, along the Dingo Mount Flora road, in Northern Queensland, observed an object just off the road, apparently hovering just above the ground in a gravel storage area. The people turned the car around for another lock, and observed a row of dull flashing white to yellow lights, apparently attached to a large mass. Above this structure, a circular mass was apparent, consisting of several rings of bluey green lights, with a central black disc. Some of the witnesses noticed a "pole" connecting the two masses, and 4 "legs". could be faintly discerned. As the witnesses' vehicle drew to a halt, the lights increased in brilliance and blinked off and on rapidly, and a very loud bang, "like a shotgun" was heard. The witnesses retreated in the car, and the upper circularly mass seemed to turn with them "as if it was watching them." The group quickly left the area, and shortly after, the men subsequently returned with a construction worker. By then the object had disappeared, but strange ground effects were noticed in the gravel storage area., at the point where the object had been seen. Police and subsequently, investigators from Townsville Air Force Base confirmed the presence of three oval shaped areas; one roughly circular area, and a rectangular area, freshly impacted in the gravel storage area. The report of the investigative RAAF officer noted that he was "unable to explain the nature of the alleged object, or the cause of the unusual ground markings which may or may not have been associated with the sighting. " I have cupies of the written statements and sketches of the witnesses, the police officers report, the RAAF officers detailed report and the RAAF photos taken at the site. The data indicates that something "unknown" was seen and did leave behind the trace marks in the gravel storage area. (17)

During the years, several civilian investigators and researchers have had a variety of success in extracting documented data from the RAAF - Department of Defence (Air Office) on "Unusual Aerial Sightings" or UFOs, in more popular parlance. Edgar Jarrold (18), Dr. J. Allen Hynek (19), Harry Griesberg (20) and others, have over the years had the opportunity to assess to a limited degree the extend to which the RAAF has involved itself in the UFO question. In recent years, the Department of Defence has consented "to provide individual reports to genuinly interested parties with names removed in order to protect the anonymity of those concerned", but "Although the RAAF files on unusual aerial sightings are unclassified", civilians are still unable to gain general access to the archival files for research purposes. (21)

Fortunately the situation is slowly changing. The RAAF is slowly becoming aware of the fact that there are competent civilian researchers who are conducting serious investigations into the UFO subject, and in recent years, there have been subtle changes in policy. The author has been receiving copies of RAAF case documents relating to "physical trace" incidences, for inclusion in his UFO "ground trace" catalogue of Australian cases. Documentation on RAAF studies of "UFO photos" have also been forthcoming. (22) All this documentation has enabled more detailed understanding of the involvment of the RAAF in the UFO controversy in Australia and only time will tell whether there will be further revelations.

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UFOs in Newsprint - A Historical Feature.

Compiled by D. Reneke.

November 1957. OUTBACK MEN SEE "SAUCER".

Broken Hill Friday .- It is claimed that a "flying saucer", said to be more than 100 feet long, was seen and photographed over Men Murtree station, Wilcannia, on Wednesday.

The men who saw it are convinced the object was not an ordinary plane, and say it resembled pictures of "flying saucers" they had seen published.

It was seen by Keith Weston, son of the manager of Men Murtree station, Fred Marshall, station hand, and another man employed there. Weston said that about 4 p.m. on wednesday, they saw an object approaching from the south-west at from 80 to 100 miles an hour at a height of about 500 feet. It had a kind of tower on the top and two portholes. It appeared to be of silvery colour, but changed colours in the sunshine.

Weston raced to the house, got a camera and photographed the object. The "saucer" disappeared over the woolshed making a "terrific noise", he said. Mrs. McKay, who is employed at the station, also heard the loud noise, but did not see the object.

Mr. Weston has developed the photographs and shown them to residents of Wilcannia. The Commonwealth Government has asked Mr. Weston for prints of the photographs he took.

October 1954.

SAUCERS ARE 'NEW WEAPON'

(Australian Associated Press)

Belgrade, Wednesday. Yuqoslav scientists suggested yesterday that seven "flying saucers" reported seen over the country yesterday were "some new secret weapon of the americans or russions".

Peter Djorkovic, assistant director of Belgrade Astronomical Observatory said the objects could not have been parts of a meteor, "but must be some technical contrivance". The Yugoslav Air Force investigated reports from many areas of the country that up to seven "flying saucers" were seen.

They were variously described as pear shaped, cigar shaped and round. Their colour shadings were given as blue, green, orange and white. Djorkovic said four of the flying objects were seen by the observatory. They went south-east in the direction of Bulgaria and returned half an hour later.

August 1954.

MYSTERY OF LIGHTS IN SKY.

Sydney, Monday .- A mysterious light which terrified dozens of people in city and suburbs last night has Air Force authorities "baffled". People from widely separated suburban areas telephoned newspaper offices and the Department of Air are seeking an explanation of the light.

An Air Force spokesman said today the light was reported about 5.30 p.m.

Through the years there have been something like close to one hundred reported observations of unusual entities which the observers have linked to the UFO phenomenon. The Australian Entity Study Group (1) has collected these accounts and published them both as summaries, and in a few cases, as in depth investigation "Case Documents".(2)

In 1977 there were five such observations which came to the attention of Australian UFO research organisations, and these provide a very good insight into the type of reports which have been received and investigated, going back in some cases to the 19th century.

The first report for 1977 came from Tasmania on the 3rd of February, when some children reported that they had observed a very unusual object in the sky at about 9.30 p.m. The children were at a youth camp, when one of them heard a noise, and upon looking up saw a stationary "something", which then moved behind some nearby trees. It appeared dome-shaped and on it there were a row of "windows", about its middle. An area of disc-shaped lights were seen spinning below it. There were also flashing white/yellow lights on the edge of the disc, and a red light on the dome top. One side of the centre window revealed something which looked like a thin figure with a bump or rounded head. It seemed to be moving back and forth in this window. Another child also noted the same object above the trees, and described it as being like "two saucers stuck together". It was spinning fast as she first saw it, then slowed down. A figure was visible in what were windows to her, before the object moved southwards with a faint whining noise being audible. The figure seemed to be thin with a largish rounded head above what the girl described as a high cullar. There was an arm visible to the left. Finally the object went behind trees and passed from their vision. (3)

Several months went by before we encounter a rather exotic and quite out of the ordinary entity report, of a prolonged visit by alien beings to a Queensland prospector on the 22nd June. (4) It transpired that the prospector saw three lights in the sky at about 11 p.m. Said lights landed near his camp near Bullou River, in Southwest Queensland. The man said that this was his fourth experience in five years in the same area, with such phenomenon. In 1973 a group of 16 objects hovered over him, before moving away, while in May 1974 a "cigar" hovered near the ground and he saw a "woman" in a window in it, and a "man" in the object's cockpit. Later, in 1976 a brilliantly lit object was seen and many things occured which he did not wish to relate.

On this latest occasion (1977), he described how after the object landed, figures emerged, played games with lightning balls, and he watched as they materialised and dematerialised. They told him they came from Begua, although didn't elaborate where this was relative to earth. There were wemen dressed in summer type clothes and men dressed in grey business style suits. Both sexes appeared human though their skin was a blue-grey colour. The objects they arrived in were slim cylinders some 50 metres tall, with each one of the three supporting itself on five legs. After two days of stopping with him, the visitors left in their ships leaving no physical trace of their stay. This account from a lonely prospector in the middle of nowhere reminded me of a gold prospector who lived near Tully, North Gueensland, who in 1974 made some remarkable claims about finding a crashed spaceship and a cat-like entity. The story sounded very authentic when told by the prospector, but lacked one iota of physical proof. However, that's another story in itself.

It wasn't until October during a number of west australian close encounters that another possible entity report emerged. On the 16th of that month a disc shaped object had been seen at close range in broad daylight near Meekatharra, by a group of '12 people, and although investigated by the RAAF, even they put an "unknown" tag on it. The following day a group of people, 8 in all, drove out to the Mount Magnet rubbish dump, after two people claimed thay had seen lights descending to the ground in that vicinity. The group saw "round, pulsating green and red objects" landed in a paddock about three kilometers from the town.

A Mr. Freestone reported, "There seemed to be a mist around them... there appeared to be objects on the ground around them. You could distinguish them with the naked eye, but as soon as you put a spotlight on them they disappeared. They would be something like human size, they weren't animals". (5)

The last two entity reports for the year came from the Waimata Valley area, near to Gisborne, New Zealand. Firstly, about 3 a.m. on the morning of the 2nd December, a farmer was awoken by the barking of his dogs. He grabbed a torch and went to investigate. Opening the back door he saw a landed object nearby. He picked up a rifle and walked towards it. The object had a metallic outer shell which glowed bright blue, and doors which opened into an intensely bright red interior. Looking towards the dog kennels he saw two humanoid figures carrying one of the dogs between them and heading for the object. These entities were about 1.4 metres tall and wore close fitting metallic silver overalls and white, opaque helmets. The overalls were, he noticed, gathered at the ankles with elastic cuffs which extended over the red glowing boots. On their hands were large, silver gauntlets with flared arm coverings extending halfway up to their forearms. The white helmets were rounded with large motorbike helmet features, and rose from shoulder to shoulder without markings or openings. Alarmed, the farmer fired at one of the humanoids and apparently "winged" him. The entities dropped the dog, with the one injured entity running off into some nearby bushes, while the other one ran into the object. The doors were seen to fold shut and the entire thing left at great speed. The dog, which had appeared unconscious stood up groggily, then jumped around barking. The farmer said he later found markings and "ripple sole shoe" footprints at the site. (6) This attempted kidnapping brings back memories of the October 1957 American wave of occupant cases where dogs were involved, and a case from near Clare, South Australia in about 1971 where an object reportedly shone a beam of light on to a dog, and beamed it up into the object which left, right in front of a farmer's nose. (7)

The same area of New Zealand was also involved in our last case which occured on the 8th December, when a smallish "man" was encountered on a road. It was wearing a silver suit, bright red boots, no helmet, and tried to flag down a car. Appearing some 1.45 metres tall, the entity waved frantically, amd jumped up and down to attract the driver's attention. However, the car driver deemed it wiser not to stop. (8)

So that was 1977, the year of the humanoids. What's in store for 78? We shall have to wait until the final score is in, sometime shortly.

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- (4) See "Psychic Australian" Vol 3 no 2 p 4, Feb 78.
- (5) "Daily News" Perth, 17, 19, 20 Oct 77, and "West Australian" 19,20,21 Oct. Also UFOR (NSW) newsletter no 53, March 1978.
- (6) Details from "Xenolog", 33 Dee Street, Timaru, NZ.(7) Personal discussions with a friend of the farmer, who said that the farmer would deny the whole thing if approached directly, as he was afraid for the safety of his children.
- (8) Would you?

by John Prytz.

Though I much enjoyed David Seargent's reply ("Is there an embarrassment of riches?" - ACOS BULLETIN Feb. 79) to my article "Are there too many UFOs?" (ACOS BULLETIN Dec. 78), I must take issue with him on several points.

First off, his analogy with numbers and types of fish in a fishtank, with the conclusion that 1000 different kinds of fish makes for "too many fish in the tank" is not only silly, but has precious little to do with the subject at hand anyway! The tank could obviously be very, very large. Our own atmosphere could be a very, very large "tank" for UFOs!

With respect to the diversity of UFO shapes, a number of factors must be considered. Consider first an analogy with our own automobile industry. The number of shapes, sizes, colours etc., of vehicles that use our roads could be numbered into the thousands, YET ALL SHARE A COMMON FUNCTION. There are two, four, even five door cars. Most have four wheels, yet at least one type I've seen had three! There are station wagons, utilities, vans, tankers, motor cycles, racing cars, army tanks bicycles, semi-trailers, and moving vans. A VW looks much different from a Holden. A Ford Falcon looks nothing like a Model-T. Even identical models can look very different if one is a hardtop and another a convertible. A car looks different at night (with lights on) than during the day. One could go on like this for hours.

Of course UFO sightings show a bit of diversity, but far less than the vehicles that use our highways! Every UFO sighting does not show a unique shape, and I'd wager one would be hard pressed to document more than 100 or so, and that would be out of a world-wide total of an estimated 700,000 UFO sightings from 1947 to date. That could mean that each UFO shape would have been noted 7,000 times. Obviously, that could well mean that each "fish" has been seen in the tank many times. It is silly to come close to suggesting that each and every one of the 700,000 some-odd UFOs sighted comes even close to representing a unique appearance. In fact, as has often been pointed out, UFOs come in a very narrow range of shapes and sizes. The basic themes can be counted on the fingers of two hands: spheres, cigars/rockets, discs, comes, domes etc. UFO witnesses show a decided lack of imagination in their reports. We don't have reports of houses flying upside down, pink elephants with wings wafting through the skies, or other common geometric shapes like squares, rectangles etc. Has anyone ever reported a UFO that looks like the Sydney Harbour Bridge or Opera House? So, diversity of UFO shapes is to my way of thinking not a problem.

David is quite correct in pointing out that UFO shapes have tended to evolve over the years. We don't have the 1890's airships anymore nor green fireballs so common in the American southwest in the late 1940s. However, again by analogy, with our own auto industry, consider the evolution of the car. We don't see very many Model-T Fords around anymore, nor Packers or Edsels or Caddies with huge fins! The evolution of UFO shapes, which hasn't been all that great - discs are still around, spheres, and even cigars, could well be a function of extraterrestrials manning them. Different types of UFOs for different types of purposes, with changes to allow for evolving purposes as the extraterrestrial exploration goes from one phase to another.

Ufo diversity is also a reflection on the diversity and psychology of the human witness. As has been proven unto death, two people can witness the same thing (accident, murder, sports play, or UFO) and come up with sometimes very different statements or opinions as to the who, what, where, when and why! One hundred witnessess would provide 100 different accounts! And the faster the event, the more likely the divergence of the reports. The more unexpected the event, the more likely the divergence of the reports. UFOs are usually both unexpected and witnessed for short durations. Thus, UFOs, via UFO reports, show greater diversity than would otherwise be the case. Witnesses can be colour blind or have bad vision! And, as has often been pointed out, the exact same UFO, depending on the angle it is viewed from, can either be reported as a circle (face on) an oval (angle on) or a rectangle (side on).

The same argument applies to close encounters of the third kind and the diversity of reported humanoids. The diversity isn't all it appears to be at first glance. Consider the variety of human shapes and appearances! Black, brown, white,

cream, reddish and yellow; tall and dwarf, fat and thin, baby and elderly, bald and afro, dressed and undressed, male and female, handicapped and athlete, those with canes and crutches and wheelchairs, drunk and sober! Even the indians of the Americas thought man (spanish) sitting on top of a horse represented one creature!

The humanoids all have a basic appearance, unlike the aliens in science fiction. CE 3K reports have the humanoids with one head (on top), two arms and legs, and a central trunk. Where are the reports of "blobs" and eight armed tentacled octopuses or centaurs? And, as in UFO sightings, CE3K cases are usually unexpected and of short duration. Many are at night which doesn't help and the witnesses are often (and understandably) not in the best mental states to objectively record their experiences.

I also agree with David when he notes that some people are prone to sighting UFOs, but most are not. How often have you read witnesses who stated that they have never seen something like that before or since? Even so, frequency in reporting UFOs could easily be accounted for when considering the activities of the witnesses. Some people tend by profession (or choice) to be outside a great deal of the time, or involved in activities that make for constant scanning of the skies (air force personnel, pilots, airport tower controllers, police, amateur astronomers etc). Two, three or even more UFO sightings in a lifetime wouldn't be out of place or unusual for those sorts of people.

One could postulate the existence of a United Nations of Stellar Societies represented by creatures from several, dozens, even hundreds of worlds. Their vehicles (our UFOs) could be multi-racial. Even one extraterrestrial civilization could have on it several differently appearing intelligences that could together make up a UFO crew. Our own earth has two such intelligences though only one (us) has the technology. The other intelligence by the way are the Cetacea (whales, dolphins and porpoises). There is nothing in those suggestions any more or less "way out" than speculating that only one intelligence is behind the UFO phenomena.

In conclusion, I cannot agree with David that the ETI theory is simply not able to explain so rich a phenomena. The richness is like beauty, in the eye of the beholder but only skin deep!

Perception

by David Reneke.

Having been the recipient of a number of late night and early morning phone calls from people reporting a UFO, only to find, after staggering through a dark room tripping over all and sundry in the process, that Venus was blazing away (again!) where the alleged UFO was hovering, I began to contemplate what manner of stimulus prompts these people to report such a relatively common astronomical object and describe in stark detail (as they do) how it has 'rays' coming from it or how it has "some sort of landing gear" un its underside. Many of these reports come from multiple witnesses, indeed, only recently I received a call from 10 people all watching Venus. They have managed to relate the abovementioned points and all agreed with one another; obviously each person was 'reading' a lot more into their observation than what was really there; they were, in fact, PERCEIVING one thing and RELATING another. Whether this perception was a factor of the environmental conditions at the time I don't know, if it was then they were relating exactly what they saw - but they were all interpreting it in another way, namely a UFO. Were they SUBCONSCIOUSLY turning it into a UFO? Were they MISINTERPRETING the impressions their eyes received? Is EMOTION involved? What then IS perception?

The world around us consists of various kinds and levels of physical energy. Our knowledge of the world comes through our sense organs, which react to these energies. Certain wavelengths of electromagnetic energy stimulate our eyes, our ears, sense certain kinds of mechanical vibrations in the air, our noses and tongues are sensitive to certain chemical stimuli.

Sense organs in our skin respond to pressure, temperature changes, and various stimuli related to pain. Sense organs in our joints and muscles are sensitive to

body movement and position.

The sense organs change the various environmental energies into nervous impulses and these impulses then go to the brain. Through the psychological process of perception, the patterns of energies become known as objects, events, people, and other aspects of the world. The process of perception does not reveal objects and events of the world. We see light and colour, but there is NO light or colour in the electromagnetic waves that stimulate the eye. In the same way, there is NO music or noise in the vibrations that stimulate the ear. The brain organises and interprets nervous impulses from the eyes as light and colour, and impulses from the ear as sound, together the sense organs and the brain transform physical energy from environmental stimuli into information about the events around us. There are two very important points about perception. First, stimulation of the sense organs alone does not determine the nature of what is perceived. Second, perception is a dynamic process of "working on" sensory data to produce perceptual objects and events. The "work" involves many physical, physiological, and psychological factors.

Factors Affecting Perception: Various factors influence what and how we perceive, our perceptions are influenced by the ways our bodies are structured to receive and process stimuli from the environment. Our perceptions also reflect our emotions

needs, expectations, and learning.

RECEPTORS: Each sensory system, such as vision, hearing, or touch, has its own specialised body parts. These parts are technically called receptors, and they change energies from the environment into nervous impulses. The human eye, for exemple, has two major kinds of receptors in the retina (the light sensitive part of the eye). These receptors are technically called rods and cones, the rods respond to light, but not to colour (different frequencies of light). The cones DO respond to different frequencies of light, and are called colour receptors. The rods allow us to see in dim light, and the cones enable us to see colours and sharp detail in bright light. Thus, the particular ways that receptors are structured and function, help determine the perceptual effects related to them.

THE BRAIN: Certain physical and functional features of the brain also determine some aspects of perception, the part of the brain that serves vision has different kinds of cells that respond only under certain conditions of stimulation. Some of these cells respond only when a light goes off, others respond when a light goes on, but they stop responding if the light stays on; such cells are also arranged in special ways in the brain, and this fact is related to how we perceive. For example, some cells are arranged in columns or in clusters, such arrangements are related to how we perceive edges and forms.

LEARNING, EMOTION AND MOTIVATION: Much evidence points to the conclusion that early experience, learning, emotion and motivation are important in defining how we perceive. Part of this accumulating evidence comes from experiments that compare how persons in different cultures perceive things. The perception of such things as form, colour, pain, and touch may differ from culture to culture depending on habits and customs and the methods of training children. In learning to perceive words and sentences, we learn not to perceive each letter and word separately, instead, we become able to scan the overall pattern and "fill in" the remainder. A poor reader is more likely than a good reader to see the errors or omissions in a particular phrase, assuming of course, that the reading material is not very complicated.

Some illusions are related to learning and past experience, an illusion is not a false perception, as many people believe, but one that is inconsistent with another perception. Since perception does not literally reveal the environment, no sensory system is closer to some absolute truth than any other. We tend to check visual illusions against touch, but touch can involve illusory effects too. Emotions and motivations can have an important effect on perception, sometimes a severe emotional disturbance can prevent perception completely, as when emotional shock causes an individual to lose his hearing temporarily. We are more likely to perceive those aspects of our environment that are related

We are more likely to perceive those aspects of our environment that are related to our motives. For example, motivation can effect the perceived characteristics

of objects; to a hungry man, food may appear larger or more colourful than usual. UNDERSTANDING PERCEPTION:

TYPES OF PERCEPTION: Perception has three levels of complexity; 1. detection, 2. recognition, 3. discrimination.

Detection refers to whether a person can sense that he is being stimulated by some form of energy. For example, a light may be so dim that he can barely detect its presence.

Recognition means being able to identify as well as detect a particular pattern of stimulation.

Discrimination means being able to perceive patterns of stimulation as different, for example, a person may hear slight differences between two similar musical notes.

PRINCIPLES OF PERCEPTION: There are a number of general principles that help us understand the process of perception, one of the most important is the principle of closure. It tells us that we have the general tendency to perceive things as complete and unified, we tend to "fill in" parts that are missing or parts that conform to an overall impression.

The principle of constancy states that despite changes that occur in stimulation we have a strong tendency to perceive objects as constant in size, shape, colour and other qualities. For example, an orange will be perceived with its characteristics colour under different kinds of light.

The opposite of the principle of constancy is also important; sometimes an object or pattern of stimulation will remain constant, but the perception effect will vary-much like a device used to show an optical illusion.

So then, what are we to make of all this? The main point to consider is never take a witness's word that what he saw was actually what was there. Many factors must be taken into account and even though the human organism is, in itself, a rudimentary scientific instrument (albeit, a poor one) it is subject to control and influence from many, many areas and the UFO investigator must explore those areas in order to make 'true' sense of the data supplied to him.

In other words, what they see is what you get!

Amnesia in Close Encounter Witnesses.

by Moira McGhee.

For many years, UFO investigators have constantly been plagued by the recurring problem of contactee witnesses suffering a complete lapse of memory regarding their experience. This particular facet of investigations has created many difficulties for the genuine investigator who wishes to present a credible and accurate report, but must resort to subjecting the witness to hypnotism in order to gain the necessary data regarding the sighting and/or encounter. All too frequently, information gained in this manner is disrupted and ridiculed by the media and authorities, who are sceptical of the ability of any intelligence to erase a particular event from a person's conscious memory. If the conscious memory is erased, why not the subconscious also? Not only is the authenticity of the event queried, but the fear of psychic connotations cause many to disregard the investigation. If it were realised that it is within even our primitive human technology to perform exactly the same feat, perhaps more credence would be given to this category of reports.

Some years ago, scientists had established that DNA molecules form the genetic memory of our species. That initial discovery stimulated further interests and experiments into the storing process of individual memories and experiences, by means of RNA - Ribonucleic acids. Scientists soon determined that there is a definite differentiation between our long and short term memory. Although everything we see, hear, feel sense and think is recorded as a molecular cipher in the form of protein structures in our cells, we cannot normally recall the majority of these experiences at a later date, as new information is retained only fleetingly by a change in the structure of our RNA, and has to be "recopied" on to more stable protein molecules in the course of the next few hours, to

come or remain a lasting memory. Just as a violent concussion of the brain can prevent the transference of a fresh experience from the short to the long term memory, it was discovered that the same result could be achieved by an injection of puromycin, directly after an experience. The purcmycin prevented the synthesis of protein in the ribosomes, so that the animo acids did not form into protein molecules as instructed by the RNA. In short, if we are able, by means of a simple injection, to prevent a person from storing a new experience in their long term memory, surely a more advanced intelligence or society should be able to achieve the same results by much more subtle and refined means.

The final proof, offered to us by the scientific community, that our witnesses may well be genuine, are the experiments that demonstrate that long forgetten details can be recalled by electronically stimulating certain sections of the brain, and that often, hypnosis can obtain the same results. Therefore, in the light of current knowledge, it is advantageous not only to investigate these particular cases with an open mind, but to pay more attention to the finer details of the witness recall under hypnosis, in order to determine what methods are being utilised to prevent the normal memory storage process.

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- * Regarding the Movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND mainly.

Words of wisdom:

Some people who jump at conclusions - lose sight of the hurdles (anon)

UFO REPORTS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA.

NA79001 21 December 1978 0810 Mosman NSW DD UFOR(NSW)

A semi-circular bright object was sighted sitting stationary in the western skies at about 20 degrees to the horizon. After approximately 8 minutes, the object took on a cigar shape, and with a third of its mass glowing red, sped off in a westerly direction at a very high speed leaving a contrail behind. There were three witnesses to this sighting.

NA79006 31 December 1978 2335 Clareville Beach NL UFOR(NSW)

Four witnesses saw a red and yellow ball of light move upwards and downwards in a serpentine motion above Pittwater for 5 minutes. It disappeared behind some hills. Apparent size comparable to the moon. After 5-7 minutes, the same sequence of events was repeated.

NA79049 24 January 1979 0100 Oberon NSW NL UFOR(NSW)

A young man was just getting out of bed in the early hours to quiten some dogs who were barking when he observed an intensely bright light source hovering above a nearby hill. The light was seen to be coming from a spherical object and it was emitting a shaft of blue/white light which was "scanning" the ground. It suddenly "switched off" and reappeared further down the hill. This continued 3 times before the object finally "switched off" and was no longer seen. The next day the witness investigated the area but found nothing. His motorcycle however suffered strange mechanical problems at the time but no connection was drawn to the sighted object.

NA79058 1966 early A.M. Nepean River NSW CEL UFOR (NSW)

One night early in 1966 a man was camping beside the river with his 2 young sons and 1 of their friends. Suddenly the younger son who was sleeping with his father in one of the tents noticed an intense light outside. Both went to investigate and saw a large disc shaped object with a revolving turret hovering above the water 100 yards distant. It had oval "portholes" and an arc blue light was coming from within, the object went through a series of colours before being lost from sight.

TA79051 30 March 1979 2140 Maatsuyker Island TAS TUFOIC.

Two people were outside to take weather details, when they noticed a large boat passing to the south. Then, a yellowish light was noticed above the boat, growing in size as if coming towards the witnesses. It grew until 4" in apparent size and giving off an intense glare that lit up the southern side of the island. The witnesses' dog reacted at the approach of the light. Within seconds, it went dark again, receeding away and shrinking in size. The dog wanted to get inside the lighthouse, but once inside, wanted to go back out. With binoculars, there seemed to be a bright light reflecting onto a cigar type shape beneath.

QB79008

16 January 1979

2215

Bramston Beach QLD

CE2

UFOR (FNQ)

A woman was driving home from work when she noticed what she thought was the moon behind some trees. She then realized that the moon was actually high in the sky to her right and $\frac{3}{4}$ full - thus it could not be the moon. The object was moon-sized, perfectly round, and golden in colour. Shortly thereafter (the object being stationary) the headlights of the car began blinking on and off, then went off completely. It was only some distance later that the headlights came back on again. The car's electrical system was checked, but no fault was detected. Over the next two weeks, the headlights became dimmer, one dropping to $\frac{1}{2}$ ist usual brilliance, the other just becoming weaker and weaker. The electrical system was once more checked, and revealed a loose earthwire, which was rectified and the lights returned to normal.

QB79013 9 February 1979 2100 Cowley QLD

UFOR (FNO)

A elderly man was driving down a hill rounding a corner, when he noticed a dull light which appeared to be sitting on the edge of the road on the left. As he came closer, he noticed a dark beehive shaped object behind it. The light now rose vertically and when his car was about 30 feet away, the witness was blinded by a flash of light which eminated from where the dull light had been. Blinking a few times, and regaining his sight, he realized that the car's headlights, dashlights and engine had ceased to function. The witness put the car into neutral and coasted to the side of the road. He proceeded to light a cigarette, which took about 30 seconds, and the car headlights and dashlights came on on their own accord. He tried to start the engine and did so without any trouble. There was no sight of the object. Upon getting home, he checked the battery terminals, but they were tight and free of corosion.